

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1152

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE

SUBJ: JOINT MEETINGS OF ISRAELI AND LEBANESE OFFICERS

REF: STATE 212817

1. FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL TOLD ME ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY REFTEL EVENING AUGUST 25. I DECIDED TO CHECK REPORT WITH RELIABLE UNTSO SOURCE AT MEETING SCHEDULED AUGUST 27.

2. UNTSO CONFIRMS ACCURACY OF REPORT WHICH HE SAID HAS ALSO BEEN CHECKED WITH LEVINSON'S ASSISTANT, KLAUS. ONLY SIGNIFICANT ADDITION IS KLAUS' STATEMENT THAT WARNING PARA 2 (B) REFTEL APPLIED TO MOSLEM VILLAGES IN AREA AS WELL. UNSTO HAS IMPRESSION ADDAN DID NOT EXAGGERATE SEVERITY OF WARNING.

3. RELIABLE UNTSO SOURCE SAYS REGARDLESS OF CHANGED NAME USED, LEBANESE GROUP BELONGS TO KHATIB'S FORCES WHICH UN HAS CALLED LEBANESE ARAB ARMY (LAA) OR ARAB LIBERATION ARMY (ALA). ALTHOUGH CONFIRMING ADDAN'S STATEMENTS REFTEL UNTSO OBSERVES THAT IT HAS NO RPT NO EVIDENCE THAT KHATIB'S FORCES ARE RESPONSIVE TO ANY ELEMENT OF GOL INCLUDING DEFMIN. A MAJOR MOURAD

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(PHONETIC) WHO USED TO ATTEND FOR LEBANESE SIDE, IS NOW

REPORTEDLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN BEIRUT.

4. SOURCE SAYS LEBANESE UN PERMREP IN JULY COMPLAINED TO GUYER OR URQUHART ABOUT BORDER MEETINGS AND UN'S DEALINGS WITH LAA. HE HAS IMPRESSION SENIOR UN OFFICIALS REPLIED UN DEALING ONLY ON DE FACTO BASIS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS IN LEBANON.

5. UNTSO SAYS THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR MEETINGS THUS FAR. ON MAY 20, IDF REQUESTED UN TO SET UP FIRST SESSION WHICH OCCURRED MAY 28. LAA (MOURAD) COMPLAINED OF IDF SHELLING ALONG BORDER AND IN VILLAGES. LEVINSON ASKED FOR SPECIFICS AND SAID IMPORTANT THING WAS TO KEEP AREA QUIET. LAA COMPLAINED ABOUT IDF ROADBLOCKS INSIDE LEBANON. LEVINSON REPLIED IF LAA CONTROLLED AREA IDF ROADBLOCKS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. LAA AGREED TO LEVINSON'S SUGGESTION JOINT MEETINGS TAKE PLACE ON REGULAR BASIS.

6. IN JUNE 20 MEETING, LEBANESE SIDE COMPLAINED OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS IN BORDER AREA IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE. IN ADDITION, BOTH SIDES AGREED EXCHANGE NEWSPAPERS.

7. FURTHER MEETING TOOK PLACE JULY 26 AFTER WHICH LEBANESE WERE TAKEN ON TOUR TO NAHARIYA. THIS SESSION WAS REPORTED IN ISRAELI PRESS BUT UNTSO DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE READ-OUT.

8. MODALITIES ARE FOR MEETINGS TO BE SET UP THROUGH ILMAC BUT FOR UN OFFICERS NOT TO BE PRESENT DURING DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, UN CHAIRED FIRST MEETING OF THIS SERIES AND WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT. UN ATTENDANCE DURING FIRST PART OF AUGUST 20 MEETING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN UNINTENTIONAL MISTAKE. UNTSO STATES IDF'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE EXTENDS AT LEAST 10 KMS ALONG ENTIRE LENGTH OF LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR NEXT MEETING.
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